GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:161
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2001
REFORMS IN JUDICIAL SYSTEM
RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases for 20 years or more are pending in various courts due to the present judicial system;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are facing impediments to bring about reforms in the present system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 161 DATED 8.3.2001

(a)to(d) 80 cases were pending for more than 20 years in the Supreme Court of India as on 5.7.2000.

The information regarding number of cases pending for more than 20 years in respect of High Courts and Subordinate Courts is not available in Department of Justice. Information is being collected from the High Courts.

However, cases pending for more than 10 years in various High Courts as on 31.12.1999 are 5,00,855. The cases pending for more than 10 years in the Subordinate Courts of the Country, State-wise, are at Annexe.

Pendency of cases in different courts arises from various complex factors. These, inter-alia, include non-filling up of vacancies of judges, inadequate judge strength, increased institution of cases on account of awareness of the rights on the part of the citizens, enactment of numerous laws, radical change in the pattern of litigation, frequent adjournment of cases, lawyers` strike etc. The Government and the judiciary are concerned about the pendency of cases.

Judicial reform is a continuous process. Government has taken steps for amending various procedural laws from time to time to simplify procedures to speed up disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies, like the Law Commission, Malimath Committee etc.

Other measures, inter alia, include increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/Tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/MetropolitanMagistrates, computerisation of courts and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs.502.90 crore for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of long pending cases and cases involving undertrials on priority. These courts will start functioning with effect from April, 2001.

A pilot project for the computerisation and networking of all courts in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, MUmbai, Kolkata& Chennai is being taken up in the year 2001-02 to serve as a model for other courts in the country. Computerisation and networking of courts will augment the capacities of courts in the country and speed up disposal of cases.

Besides,the Supreme Court has taken a number of initiatives for expeditious disposal of cases such as more practical categorisation and grouping of cases, to take up for hearing all the cases listed for the particular day as far as possible, non-accumulation of defective matters, reservation of more and sufficient time slot for old pending cases in chronological order and streamlining of administration and manpower of the registry through computer network. The High Courts havealso taken similar steps to reduce backlog of cases.

STATEMENT-II

AS PER AVAILABLE AGE-WISE PENDENCY OF CASES IN THE DISTRICT/SUBORDINATE COURT (STATE-WISE)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Less than six months old	Six to twelve months old	One to three years old	Three to ten years old	Over ten years old	Total	As on
1.	Andhra Pradesh	241987	213896	291497	137064	7177	891621	6/2000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	861	672	249	18	0	1800	6/1999
3.	Assam	255	239	212	61	32	799	12/1999
4.	Bihar	171248	319003	453517	315436	59449	1277396	6/2000
5.	Goa	7844	5749	11230	10805	2857	38485	12/2000
6.	Gujarat	389642	656770	1222627	837006	97822	3203867	6/2000
7	Haryana	99453	103310	187788	102370	1880	494801	12/1998
8.	Himachal Pradesh	31159	36385	48039	26895	351	142829	6/2000
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	52997	35716	20605	8770	3827	121915	12/1998
10.	Karnataka	208666	231769	363300	233019	28132	1064886	6/2000
11.	Kerala	204054	156388	206548	65215	2825	628509	6/2000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	270843	303318	376203	325692	66219	1342275	6/2000
13.	Maharashtra	418063	442517	876158	776074	217257	2730069	6/2000
14.	Manipur	1558	1745	2306	2098	431	8138	12/1999
15.	Meghalaya	3905	1256	2060	4004	1658	12883	12/1999
16.	Mizoram	1094	511	269	68	2	1944	6/2000
17.	Nagaland	N O T	A V A I L A B L E					
18.	Orissa	95660	183100	256778	131097	10187	676822	6/2000
19.	Punjab	108303	106366	108503	47898	4142	375212	12/1998
20.	Rajasthan	114656	149180	275523	259721	49468	848548	6/2000
21.	Sikkim	464	70	62	41	0	659	12/1999
22.	Tamil Nadu	97035	73086	82160	48426	5182	305889	12/1999
23.	Tripura	6203	5409	4781	2192	335	18920	6/2000
24.	Uttar Pradesh	644036	724457	1036316	857741	158532	3421082	12/1999
25.	West Bengal	223526	266911	411290	308573	95555	1305855	12/1998
26.	And. & Nicobar	127	98	253	127	3	608	6/1999
27.	Chandigarh	17217	21695	8144	2908	79	50043	12/1998
28.	Dadra & N.Haveli	345	360	577	275	7	1564	6/2000
29.	Daman & Diu	215	200	585	322	16	1338	6/2000
30.	Delhi	141205	87268	190848	111074	15571	545966	12/2000
31.	Lakshdweep	188	15	48	25	4	280	6/2000
32.	Pondicherry	8215	2664	2374	1042	345	12985	6/2000
Grand Total							19527988	